

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 10/726,994
FILING DATE 3 December 2003
INVENTORS Kedar R. Belhe et al.
ASSIGNEE St. Jude Medical Puerto Rico B.V.
GROUP ART UNIT Unknown
EXAMINER Unknown
ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 47563.0015
TITLE "Suture Based Vascular Closure Apparatus and Method Incorporating a Pre-Tied Knot"

TRANSMITTAL LETTER AND CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

To: Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

From: L. Grant Foster
HOLLAND & HART LLP
555 - 17th Street, Suite 3200
P.O. Box 8749
Denver, Colorado 80201
Telephone: (801) 595-7830
Facsimile: (801) 364-9124

Enclosed are the items listed below submitted regarding the matter identified above:

1. Transmittal Letter with Certificate of Mailing included
2. PTO Return Postcard Receipt
3. Information Disclosure Statement
4. Form PTO-1449 (2 Sheets)
5. Copy of Cited of References

Deposit Account Authorization - The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any applicable fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Date: 1 March 2004

By: [Signature]
L. Grant Foster
Reg. No. 33,236

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify the items listed above as enclosed are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as either first class mail or Express Mail, if the blank for Express Mail No. is completed below, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop DD, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below indicated date.

Date: 1 March 2004

Signature: Kathy Case
Name: Kathy Case



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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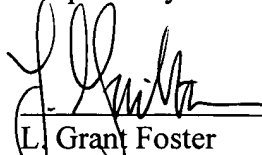
The citations listed on attached PTO Form 1449 may be material to the examination of the subject application. Applicant submits copies of these references in compliance with the duty of disclosure defined in 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97-1.99. The Examiner is requested to review and make these references of record in the above-referenced application.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists. Further, this submission does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art," Applicant reserves the right to present the relevant facts and law regarding such documents. Applicant reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

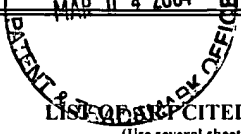
Applicant respectfully requests expeditious examination and a favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1 MARCH 2004



L. Grant Foster
Reg. No. 33,236

Form PTO-1449				U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 47563.0015		SERIAL NO. 10/726,994	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)						APPLICANT: Kedar R. Belhe et al.			
						FILING DATE: December 3, 2003		GROUP: Unknown	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate		
	AA	4,602,635	07/29/86	Mulhollan et al.	A61B	17/04	11/14/83		
	AB	5,021,059	06/04/91	Kensey et al.	A61B	17/00	05/07/90		
	AC	5,222,974	06/29/93	Kensey et al.	A61B	17/00	11/08/91		
	AD	5,282,827	02/01/94	Kensey et al.	A61B	17/00	03/05/92		
	AE	5,411,520	05/02/95	Nash et al.	A61B	17/00	02/03/93		
	AF	5,649,959	07/22/97	Hannam et al.	A61B	17/00	02/10/95		
	AG	5,662,681	09/02/97	Nash et al.	A61B	17/08	04/23/96		
	AH	5,728,114	03/17/98	Evans et al.	A61B	17/00	03/07/96		
	AI	5,861,004	01/19/99	Kensey et al.	A61B	17/00	08/29/97		
	AJ	5,935,147	08/10/99	Kensey et al.	A61B	17/08	12/17/97		
	AK	6,045,569	04/04/00	Kensey et al.	A61B	17/04	01/29/98		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation		
							Yes	No	
	AL								
	AM								
	AN								
	AO								
	AP								
OTHER PRIOR ART (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)									
	AR								
	AS								
	AT								
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED					
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.									

Form PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO. 47563.0015

SERIAL NO. 10/726,994

LIST OF ART CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT: Kedar R. Belhe et al.

FILING DATE: December 3, 2003

GROUP: Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA	6,090,130	07/18/00	Nash et al.	A61B	17/08	06/25/98
	AB	6,132,439	10/17/00	Kontos	A61B	17/10	02/17/99
	AC	6,171,317 B1	01/09/01	Jackson et al.	A61B	17/04	09/14/99
	AD	6,179,863 B1	01/30/01	Kensey et al.	A61B	17/08	04/19/99
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

OTHER PRIOR ART (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR		
	AS		
	AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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5 January 2004

Roland Smith
Patent Counsel
St. Jude Medical, Daig Division, Inc.
St. Jude Medical Puerto Rico, B.V.
14900 Minnetonka Industrial Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/726,994
"Suture Based Vascular Closure Apparatus and Method Incorporating a
Pre-Tied Knot"
Our File No. 47563.0015

Dear Roland:

With regard to the referenced patent application, the applicant, the inventors, the patent attorney, and any others associated with the patent application process have a duty to disclose all information that may be considered "material" to the Examiner reviewing the patent application. As you know, we did not engage in any search for prior art prior to filing the above-referenced patent application. We have in our possession several hundred patents you provided to us previously that may include prior art patents material to this invention. We will try to identify relevant patents, but we make no guarantee that we will recognize all relevant patents. You may be aware of specific prior art that should be considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). If you are aware of any such information, please provide it to me at your earliest convenience so that we can submit it to the PTO.

Please keep in mind that there is a duty to disclose only *known* prior art information to the PTO. There is no affirmative duty to go out and search for prior art.

Please send us any material information of which you are aware no later than 13 January 2004 so we can disclose it to the PTO. Please bear in mind that the closest prior art may be prior systems sold or methods used by you or your company.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

L. Grant Foster
of HOLLAND & HART LLP

GF:kc

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